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Own Weapon Hit Nixon, Ex-Aide Says

Cuban Invasion Plans Kept Secret for Security: Klein

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (UPI)—Richard M. Nixon's former press secretary said yesterday that Nixon's desire to keep the secret of Cuban invasion plans caused him to be "clubbed" by President Kennedy in the 1960 campaign.

Herbert G. Klein, press secretary for Nixon during the 1960 presidential campaign and now editor of the San Diego Union, said Nixon had wanted to make Cuban intervention a campaign issue but did not do so for security reasons.

When Kennedy came out for Cuban intervention, Klein said, "The effect was that in a crucial period of the campaign Mr. Nixon was being clubbed with his own weapon. And, because he had a strong sense of his responsibility to protect security, he had no choice but to argue against Mr. Kennedy, and thus signing a policy he previously originated himself."

KLEIN'S VERSION of the incident appeared in Sunday edition of *The Union*.

He called it a "story we at the Nixon staff couldn't tell during the 1960 campaign."

"At the time of the Cuban invasion," he said, "we had the vice president, the campaign manager and myself in the news room, and we were discussing the week's developments."

Klein said then, "None of the Nixon staff knew anything about Cuba."

"Frequently we discussed among ourselves the handling of the Cuban issue within security bounds," Klein said. "We heard in rumor that the Kennedy staff wanted the beach assault would take place before the election. I understood this was the case. On Oct. 20, Mr. Kennedy proposed direct intervention."

"FOR THE vice president and his staff, this angered. Elements of the campaign took place on Oct. 20, on the eve of the fourth television debate between Nixon and Kennedy. We were in New York when Mr. Kennedy came in this day, made a speech which directly outlined his next program which was being worked out—and which we had, for security reasons, kept secret."

"Here is what we thought had happened."

"First: On July 25, Dulles, then head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Mr. Kennedy had concurred in a decision that he had been briefed by both, with particular emphasis on Asia and Africa. Nothing was said to the two told reporters. All we knew that this was in accordance with orders given Mr. Dulles by President Eisenhower."

"Second: Nixon had featured the initiative on the Cuban missile with his Miami statement, calling for quarantine against Cuba. In the best co-ordination of the campaign, the agency had followed with the putting this into effect."

"IT SEEMED obvious," Mr. Kennedy was asked, "after realizing he had a point at a crucial period in the campaign, was struck with secret material he had been given at the Dulles briefing. The House was querulous, told Mr. Kennedy, and informed about the secret. Others told us President Johnson was angry over the disclosure."

"In the light of what I know of happenings at that time, of course, surprised last year at Mr. Dulles' statement which corroborates President Johnson's position that he was not the troon train."

In a statement, Mr. Dulles said, "The intelligence community, I believe, did not know then that the Cuban missile crisis was coming."